

CLAIMS:

1. A sash latch device of a self-latching type including a primary bolt for, in use, engagement with a strike, the
5 primary bolt being coupled to an operating element whereby the primary bolt is moveable from a latching position to a retracted position, retaining means to retain the primary bolt in the retracted position and an activation means operable to release the retaining means
10 to enable the primary bolt to move from the retracted position to the latching position.
2. A latch device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the activation means is a secondary bolt moveably carried by
15 the primary bolt.
3. A latch device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the primary bolt is biased by biasing means to move to the latching position.
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4. A latch device as claimed in claim 3 wherein the secondary bolt includes an engagement surface which, in use, is engageable with an abutment surface whereby the secondary bolt moves relative to the primary bolt to
25 cause the retaining means to move to a release position.
5. A latch device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the secondary bolt includes a second engagement surface which, in use, is engageable with an abutment surface to
30 cause the secondary bolt to move and cause the retaining means to move to the release position.

6. A latch device as claimed in claim 4 or 5 in combination with a strike wherein the abutment surface is formed by at least one surface of a wall of the strike.
- 5 7. A latch device as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 6 wherein the secondary bolt is slidably located in the primary bolt.
8. A latch device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7
10 wherein the primary bolt is slidably mounted in a chassis which is removably coupled to a base.
9. A latch device as claimed in claim 8 further including a cover removably mounted to the chassis.
- 15 10. A self-latching sash latch device including a latch body having a primary bolt, a strike, the primary bolt being mounted for movement in said body between a latching position where, in use, the primary bolt engages in a
20 latching configuration with the strike and a retracted position, and an operating element operatively coupled to the primary bolt to enable the primary bolt to be moved from the latching position to the retracted position, a retaining means to retain the primary bolt
25 in the retracted position and a release member moveable with or independent of the primary bolt to effect release of the retaining means to release the primary bolt and enable it to move from the retracted position to the latching position.
- 30 11. A latch device as claimed in claim 10 wherein the primary bolt is mounted for sliding movement between the

latching and retracted positions and the release member is a secondary bolt mounted with the primary bolt such that movement of the secondary bolt relative to the primary bolt can occur.

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12. A latching device as claimed in claim 11 wherein the secondary bolt has a leading end which has a first engagement surface which is exposed for contact with a part of the strike when the primary bolt is moved to the retracted position by the operating element, whereby contact between the first engagement surface and said part of the strike during relative movement between the body and strike causes the secondary bolt to move to the position where it effects release of the retaining means.

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13. A latch device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the first engagement surface is a surface, which is inclined relative to the direction in which the secondary bolt is moveable.

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14. A latch device as claimed in claim 12 or 13 wherein said strike has a wall which overlaps an engagement portion of the primary bolt when the primary bolt is in the latching position and the latch device is in a latching configuration.

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15. A latch device as claimed in claim 12, 13 or 14 wherein the secondary bolt has a second engagement surface which is engageable with said part of the strike upon relative movement between the body and strike occurring in an opposite direction.

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16. A latch device as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 15 wherein the primary bolt and the release means are independently biased by separate biasing means.

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17. A latch device as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 16 wherein the retaining means is a spring clip engageable with an abutment of the primary bolt.

10 18. A latch device as claimed in claim 17 wherein the release member is moveable to a position where it moves the spring clip out of engagement with the abutment to thereby release the retaining means.

15 19. A latch device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 18 further including limiting means engageable with the primary bolt when in the latching position.

20 20. A latch device as claimed in claim 19 further including limit release means operable by the operating element to release the limiting means to free the primary bolt for movement from the latching position to the retracted position.

25 21. A latch device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 20 further including indicator means moveable in response to movement of the primary bolt to provide an indication visually apparent from externally of the body of the latch device being in a latching or non-latching
30 configuration.

22. A latch device as claimed in claim 21 wherein the indicator means comprises an elongate member with a distal end slidingly engaged in an opening in an external surface of the body.

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23. A latch device as claimed in claim 22 wherein there is further provided one or more cover elements to cover the opening but moveable to enable said distal end to become visible.

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24. A latch device as claimed in claim 23 wherein the cover elements comprise a pair of flaps carried by legs, the legs being moveable apart by movement of the elongate member to cause the flaps to move away from covering the opening.

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25. A latch device as claimed in claim 22, 23 or 24 wherein the distal end includes a knob.

20 26. A self-latching sash latch device substantially as herein described with reference to Figure 1 to 6 or Figures 1 to 9 of the accompanying drawings.

25 27. A self-latching sash latch device as claimed in claim 26 with further reference to Figures 10 and 11 or Figure 12 of the accompanying drawings and the associated description of Figures 10 and 11 or Figure 12.